

# Eugenics Act

1. Every employee of the State government or of any department thereof, who is required to be on duty seven days in each calendar week, shall on and after the passage of this act be relieved from duty, without any reduction in pay, and without any requirements that the time so allowed shall subsequently be made up, at least two Sundays in each calendar month. The heads of the various departments are hereby authorized to take such steps as may be necessary to put this act into effect.

CHAP. 371.—An ACT to preserve racial integrity.

[S B 219]

Approved March 20, 1924.

1. Be it enacted by the general assembly of Virginia, That the State registrar of vital statistics may, as soon as practicable after the taking effect of this act, prepare a form whereon the racial composition of any individual, as Caucasian, Negro, Mongolian, American Indian, Asiatic Indian, Malay, or any mixture thereof, or any other non-Caucasic strains, and if there be any mixture, then, the racial composition of the parents and other ancestors, in so far as ascertainable, so as to show in what generation such mixture occurred, may be certified by such individual, which form shall be known as a registration certificate. The State registrar may supply to each local registrar a sufficient number of such forms for the purpose of this act; each local registrar may, personally or by deputy, as soon as possible after receiving said forms, have made thereon in duplicate a certificate of the racial composition, as aforesaid, of each person resident in his district, who so desires, born before June 14, 1912, which certificate shall be made over the signature of said person, or in the case of children under fourteen years of age, over the signature of a parent, guardian, or other person standing in loco parentis. One of said certificates for each person thus registering in every district shall be forwarded to the State registrar for his files; the other shall be kept on file by the local registrar.

Every local registrar may, as soon as practicable, have such registration certificate made by or for each person in his district who so desires, born before June 14, 1912, for whom he has not on file a registration certificate, or a birth certificate.

2. It shall be a felony for any person wilfully or knowingly to make a registration certificate false as to color or race. The wilful making of a false registration or birth certificate shall be punished by confinement in the penitentiary for one year.

3. For each registration certificate properly made and returned to the State registrar, the local registrar returning the same shall be entitled to a fee of twenty-five cents, to be paid by the registrant. Application for registration and for transcript may be made direct to the State registrar, who may retain the fee for expenses of his office.

4. No marriage license shall be granted until the clerk or deputy clerk has reasonable assurance that the statements as to color of both man and woman are correct.

If there is reasonable cause to disbelieve that applicants are of pure white race, when that fact is stated, the clerk or deputy clerk shall with-

# Virginia's Eugenical Sterilization Act of 1924

1924.]

ACTS OF ASSEMBLY.

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2. An emergency existing, this act shall be enforced from its passage.

CHAP. 394.—AN ACT to provide for the sexual sterilization of inmates of State institutions in certain cases. [S B 281]

Approved March 20, 1924.

Whereas, both the health of the individual patient and the welfare of society may be promoted in certain cases by the sterilization of mental defectives under careful safeguard and by competent and conscientious authority, and

Whereas, such sterilization may be effected in males by the operation of vasectomy and in females by the operation of salpingectomy, both of which said operations may be performed without serious pain or substantial danger to the life of the patient, and

Whereas, the Commonwealth has in custodial care and is supporting in various State institutions many defective persons who if now discharged or paroled would likely become by the propagation of their kind a menace to society but who if incapable of procreating might properly and safely be discharged or paroled and become self-supporting with benefit both to themselves and to society, and

Whereas, human experience has demonstrated that heredity plays an important part in the transmission of insanity, idiocy, imbecility, epilepsy and crime, now, therefore

1. Be it enacted by the general assembly of Virginia, That whenever the superintendent of the Western State Hospital, or of the Eastern State Hospital, or of the Southwestern State Hospital, or of the Central State Hospital, or of the State Colony for Epileptics and Feeble-Minded, shall be of opinion that it is for the best interests of the patients and of society that any inmate of the institution under his care should be sexually sterilized, such superintendent is hereby authorized to perform, or cause to be performed by some capable physician or surgeon, the operation of sterilization on any such patient confined in such institution afflicted with hereditary forms of insanity that are recurrent, idiocy, imbecility, feeble-mindedness or epilepsy; provided that such superintendent shall have first complied with the requirements of this act.

2. Such superintendent shall first present to the special board of directors of his hospital or colony a petition stating the facts of the case and the grounds of his opinion, verified by his affidavit to the best of his knowledge and belief, and praying that an order may be entered by said board requiring him to perform or to have performed by some competent physician to be designated by him in his said petition or by said board in its order, upon the inmate of his institution named in such petition, the operation of vasectomy if upon a male and of salpingectomy if upon a female.

A copy of said petition must be served upon the inmate together with a notice in writing designating the time and place in the said institution, not less than thirty days before the presentation of such petition to said special board of directors when and where said board may hear and act upon such petition.



# Virginia's Sterilization Form

Hospital Form No. 111

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE STATE HOSPITAL BOARD

AT

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Institution)

In re

\_\_\_\_\_, Register No. \_\_\_\_\_

Inmate

}  
Order for  
Sexual Sterilization

Upon the petition of \_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent of \_\_\_\_\_

and upon consideration of the evidence introduced at the hearing of this matter, the Board finds that the said inmate is

{  
insane  
idiotic  
imbecile  
feeble-minded  
epileptic

} and by the laws of heredity is the probable potential parent of socially

inadequate offsprings likewise afflicted; that the said inmate may be sexually sterilized without detriment to  
{his  
her} general health, and that the welfare of the inmate and of society will be promoted by such sterilization.

Therefore, it appearing that all proper parties have been duly served with proper notice of these proceedings, and have been heard or given an opportunity to be heard, it is ordered that \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Superintendent)

{perform  
have performed

by Dr. \_\_\_\_\_, on the said inmate the operation of {vasectomy  
salpingectomy}

after not less than thirty (30) days from the date hereof.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Designated Member of Board)

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Make two copies; one for guardian or committee and one for Board.

